

TOKEN TOPICS

Issue #9
January, 1968

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND,
Editor

NEW YEAR GREETINGS to all good vecturists everywhere! Here's a wish from the club officers that every member will enjoy good health, happiness, and the finding of lots of wonderful new tokens for his or her collection.

Our first meeting in the new year will be on Sunday afternoon, January 14th, from 2:00 to 4:30, with Gordon and Claire Smith in Santa Monica. It's just a year ago this month that we last met at their place, and all have looked forward to a repeat visit. The Smiths dwell in a mobile home park, you'll recall, and our get-together will be in the social hall just inside the front gate. The street number is 2930 Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, and the phone is 451-2683.

Driving from any Los Angeles area, you can reach there quickly via the Santa Monica Freeway, and the Cloverfield/26th Street off-ramp. Head about three blocks north from the Freeway, then a right turn (east) about three more blocks, and there you are! Or if you're avoiding freeways these days, drive west on either Olympic Blvd. or Santa Monica Blvd., both of which closely parallel Colorado Avenue out that way. We'll all be looking for YOU. And do bring along plenty of dupes for swapping!

IN NOVEMBER the 65th regular CATTG gathering was held on Sunday the 12th, at the ever hospitable home of Elaine Willahan. With 20 members on hand, plus a sprinkling of family guests, the club wound up another good year. All six meetings in '67 had been well attended, and our plan for having the Executive Board handle most business matters left plenty of meeting time for token talk and token exchanges.

Apparently the Board had done a satisfactory job, because the members on hand in November called for a unanimous re-election of the entire slate for a second year. Continuing to serve, therefore, are: Robert Ritterband, president; Robert Carter, vice president; Elaine Willahan, secretary; and Edward Cutler, treasurer. Past president Edrick Miller completes the group.

Two other items of interest were also handled at the November gathering. For one, we were finally able to greet Bill Gallagher again at a club meeting and present the "Distinguished Member" plaque voted him early in the summer. Bill's Sunday working hours had prevented our earlier pleasure on this. The other matter was a decision by the Board, following comments by the members, to set aside any preliminary club plans for an outing next August to the scheduled ANA conclave in San Diego. Though a number of our members will likely go there as individuals, it was felt that any mass migration could detract from attendance at our own AVA convention, just a few days earlier in Oakland.

AND NOW, as we begin another year, it's time for dues again. Many of the members at our November meeting deposited their \$1 with Secretary Elaine, and will receive their new cards with this bulletin. But maybe you could not be on hand, or forgot to leave the buck, and so this reminder to all.

Each year we collect just about enough to cover printing and mailing our bi-monthly bulletins, which are especially valuable to out-of-town members. Postage costs will be going up again just a few days after this current issue gets into the mail. More than ever we will be depending on your annual contribution. Please send your dollar today to: Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles 90044. Many thanks!

MANY OF US find it worthwhile to list future events in some date book or calendar. Besides January, here is a tentative list of five other CATTG meetings for 1968: Sunday, March 10; Sunday, May 5 (the first weekend, because of Mother's Day); Sunday, July 14; Saturday, September 7; and Sunday, November 10. The September date will likely be a picnic again, and is being shifted ahead one day as an experiment for members who often cannot attend on Sundays.

Also here are details of the two conventions mentioned on the front page. The AVA session comes first, on the weekend of August 16-18, at the Leamington Hotel in Oakland. This place has been a comfortable, downtown landmark for forty years or more, and Vecturists are promised reasonable rates for their stay. Opening on August 20, the ANA affair will run for five days at El Cortez Hotel in San Diego. Also near downtown, this spot has its own convention center, and can be recognized from afar by its famed outside elevator, said to be the first such ever constructed. So here's hoping that your budget will permit you to take in both events.

MEMBER AFTER MEMBER- For several years the "NEVA News" of the North Eastern Vecturist Assn. has been issued by Paul Targonsky of Meriden, Conn., and an out-of-state member of the CATTG. He recently relinquished the job, in order to concentrate on his new catalogue of Telephone Tokens. So who took over? None other than Bob Misdorn of Bayonne, New Jersey, who is also one of our out-of-staters. We never did have many non-Californians in this group, but you must admit that those we do get are to notch! Sincere good wishes to both these fellow vecturists.

RAIL FANS of every type must have been pleased with the recent Christmas Seals. At first your editor gave them the most casual of glances, and didn't notice until some days later that each row of stamps had a "consist" of ten different railroad cars and coaches. Now, if only they had been able to work in some horse cars, street cars and motor buses, then we all could have been thrilled!

OUR CLUB'S AD in the latest "Fare Box" regarding that 1952 Atwood's Catalogue brought prompt results. This was the volume donated to the club by F. Gordon Smith, with instructions to sell same for the benefit of our treasury. Several eastern collectors wrote us, making offers of up to \$5.00, plus shipping expense. This week we will send the relic edition to Mr. Ore Vacketta, Westville, Illinois (AVA #785), as his offer at that price was the first such received. Our thanks to him for his interest, and again of course to Gordon for his generosity.

AND SPEAKING of "The Fare Box", some of the CATTG members have been concerned because news about our club doings does not always appear there as quickly as we might like. Be very sure, though, that you keep in mind the question of timing. Editor Coffee's deadline might happen so soon after one of our meeting dates that there just isn't enough time to get a report in for that issue. Our story is then held over for the next issue, a month or so later. Add a week or more for editing and mimeographing, plus nearly a week for the bulletin mail to reach us across country, and it's quite possible for a legitimate delay of six weeks before we can have the fun of reading all about ourselves. Okay??? Okay!

SURELY you'll remember that matter of your annual dues, won't you?

- RMR

TOKEN TOPICS

Issue #10
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of the

CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND,
Editor

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! Many of our CATTC members aren't lucky enough to live in Southern California. For their benefit, we report that the past week has been truly springtime here. Daytime temperatures in the 80's, with evenings in the 50's. Well, by the time your mailman delivers this bulletin we might have it chilly or rainy again, but in the meantime... think of Spring, and of our coming "springtime" meeting.

We will gather on Sunday afternoon, March 10, from 2:00 to 5:00, once again at the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles. (It's close to Figueroa Street and Century Blvd., and can be reached quickly via the Harbor Freeway.) Come on along, to enjoy the token talk, token swapping, and unlimited cordial hospitality. And by the way, the Willahan phone number is 755-2708, in case you'd like Elaine to bake an extra pie just for you. We'll all look forward to seeing YOU there!

Oh, yes! Secretary Elaine has received a note from AVA member, Douglas Redies, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He hopes to be here for our March meeting, and wants to buy transportation tokens from our local collectors. Be sure to bring along plenty of dupes, for the benefit of his want lists.

WE OPENED the new club year on Sunday, January 14, at the home of Gordon and Claire Smith in Santa Monica, with 21 members and guests present. One member there, attending a regular session for the first time in about six years, was Ralph Freiberg of San Francisco. He told us quite a bit about his work as "Fare Box" reporter of New Issues information, as well as some advance comments on the next revision of the Atwood's Catalogue. Roland Atwood, AVA #1, was there too, as he always is when not roaming the world. However, not long after he left on another four months' round-the-world cruise. It is his eighth such jaunt, if we recall them all correctly!

Getting back to Gordon Smith, as this bulletin issues is "put to bed", we hear that he is recovering nicely from some recent corrective stomach surgery. Soon he'll be able to eat as many buffalo steaks, unshelled peanuts and so on, as he wants! Gordon's many Vecturist friends everywhere will be pleased at how nicely he is doing after these bothersome months.

THIS IS IMPORTANT: Plenty of our members paid their \$1.00 dues for 1968 at either the January or our last November meeting. Quite a few others mailed in their buck already to club secretary Elaine Willahan. There are still a few, though, who have been forgetful, and these folks will find a dues statement mailed with this bulletin. Please do not neglect this little item any longer! Our officers have very fixed feelings about carrying any dead weight on the mailing lists, as a matter of principle even more than the postage costs. If we don't hear from the delinquents promptly, we'll just have to assume that they no longer enjoy the regular reading of our "Token Topics". Now, wouldn't that be a shame???

REMEMBER that there are two kinds of token collectors... those who keep waiting for something new to turn up, and those who keep turning up something new while waiting.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER is also our youngest. Yet he is hardly a stranger to CATTC meetings. And who is that? Why, Larry Roselinsky, son of old timer Frank. Larry has come tagging along with his dad on a good many occasions, and Frank decided in January that it was about time to do the right thing for this lad. Maybe the fact that Larry just became a teen-ager last month had something to do with Frank's sudden surge of pride. Welcome, then, to Larry and sincere greetings to Frank and Norma on their son's reaching the traditional thirteenth milestone.

AS USUAL, vice president Robert Carter drew honors for his efforts at the fifth annual Long Beach Coin and Stamp show and the thirteenth annual convention of the Numismatic Assn. of So. Calif., at the Statler-Hilton in Los Angeles. For both of these February events, Bob again had a fine display of transportation tokens and one of currency. The tokens copped a first-place ribbon at Long Beach and a third spot at the Statler. On the other hand, the currency layout won a first in Los Angeles and a second at Long Beach. No matter how you mix them around, these judges evidently know "class" when they see it.

The Carter family, too, is in for some personal greetings from all. Somehow, between the two coin shows mentioned, Bob and Harriet found time to stage a fine wedding for their charming daughter. Bob reports that they didn't lose a girl; they gained a collector,...even though the new groom specializes in guns. Our best to all four!

OUR CLUB has received, by way of the president, a lengthy letter with many details on this summer's AVA convention at Oakland, from Duane Feisel, who will act as general chairman for the event. Because of our marked success in hosting the same conclave two years ago at Disneyland, Feisel asks for information and advice on making this repeat California party another real winner. His two pages are much too full to attempt any quotations here. Instead we plan to read the letter aloud at our coming meeting, along with the even-longer reply. So if you are making plans now for joining in the northbound trek in August, here is just one more reason to attend our March meeting. Be assured that any of your comments, suggestions or queries will be passed along promptly to the convention committee.

DID YOU ever happen to meet that old Russian piano tuner, Mr. Oppernockety? He always did a fine tuning job, but would never come back for any repeat calls. "Anyone knows," he always said, "that Oppernockety only tunes once!"

SAVE THE DATE! It has been suggested that our bulletins should give repeated information on coming meetings, rather than listing just one at a time. In the last issue we stated the six various dates for this year, and now we want you to make a special note of our plans for May.

First, the meeting will be on Sunday, May 5, in accordance with our usual plan of moving things up one week every May to avoid conflict with Mother's Day observances. Next, we are happy to announce that once again we will gather right within the transportation industry itself, by going back for another time to the Santa Fe coach yards in downtown Los Angeles. This will be our third annual session aboard a private car there, actually inside the busy working area, with enough activity and excitement all afternoon to please everyone. This year we will be given use of a more spacious car, the famed Santa Fe #1506, a full-length club car with a large observation platform and plenty of room for everyone. More details later, but be sure you put the date on your calendar now.

TOKEN TOPICS

ISSUE #11
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of the
CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND,
Editor

THIS COMING SUNDAY, May 5th, is the afternoon for our 68th consecutive CATTC meeting. (Sorry that this bulletin issue has not reached you a bit earlier, but the editor has been enjoying(?) another flare-up of his old-time back troubles.) Fortunately the meeting time and place have been announced in several previous issues, so that by now every member should know that once again we will gather on a private railroad car in the midst of the busy Santa Fe yards in Los Angeles.

It will be our third annual meeting at this site, which means we are probably okay in not repeating the detailed map previously printed. Just remember that the coach yards are at the extreme east end of Eighth Street, between Santa Fe Avenue and the Los Angeles River. The Santa Monica Freeway passes directly over the yards, and you'll find tons of free parking after you enter the railroad property. If this is the first visit for any of our members, please feel free to call upon our president (at 938-4504) for more exact driving instructions.

Remember that this year we have been granted the use of a more spacious railroad car, the former Santa Fe #1509, long used in service for their deluxe travel. It has a large observation platform, with plenty of lounge area for all members and their guests. There is still a railroad restriction against children of less than high school age in these yards, but other than that we'll expect a big turnout to participate in the fun and excitement there. The open hours will be from 1:30 to 4:30, and as always there will be plenty of hot coffee and cold drinks. Plenty of token talk and token swapping, too, of course!

A GOOD CROWD was on hand for our previous meeting, on the afternoon of March 10th, at Elaine Willahan's house. In addition to the twenty or so regular members who seldom miss, we also had the pleasure this time of welcoming a couple of newcomers to our membership. Jim and Dee Wassel, from Whittier, are at quite an early stage in token collecting, and so were able to pick up a number of worthwhile duplicates from the rest of us. Another vecturist who left the session with many additional tokens for his collection was Douglas Redies, an AVA visitor from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He had spent several vacation weeks here in California, and had managed to contact numerous collectors throughout the state for the benefit of his token holdings.

During the business part of the meeting, quite a bit of information was offered on the next AVA convention, to be held at Oakland in August. From the members' response, there should be a nice turnout of Southern California collectors at the annual affair.

A LOYAL MEMBER, indeed, of the CATTC is Joseph Allis of New York City. Secretary Elaine reports that recently she had a dues check from Joe, which covered this year, and next year, and the year after that! We do appreciate his thoughtfulness, as well as the confidence he places in our club's continuing leadership and progress for the future. (And of course we're happy to note that Allis is keeping up the improvement from his recent illness.) The club still has a tiny handful of members who haven't yet sent in that little old dollar for this year's renewal. We hope that they will take Joe's gesture as their final reminder.

THE NEWEST THING in California transportation tokens is of course the Long Beach bus token, which was first put into use on Sunday, April 7th. Several local members already have their copies, and many more will soon be receiving them through Nicolosi's New Issues Service. This is a 16-mm bronze item, and collectors are certain to consider them quite attractive.

The Long Beach Public Transportation Co. has dubbed it their "Queen Mary Edition", since a portrayal of that famous ship is illustrated on both sides. An unusual feature of the token's introduction was that the bus company used full page, two-color ads in local newspapers to announce the presentation. Showing how fully aware the transportation officials must be of such folks as vecturists, their ads prominently included the following paragraph: "These new, first edition commemorative tokens should appreciate substantially in value over a period of time for coin and token collectors..... or you can use them to ride the new Blue Dreamliners right here in Long Beach. So you can't lose, any way you look at it!" Notice that the company makes a greater sales pitch towards collectors than towards the bus riders. Well, we're not so sure about that substantial increase in value, but at least we're thankful they didn't increase their regular 5 for \$1.00 price in marketing them!

TRAVELINGEST MEMBER among us is still Roland Atwood, AVA #1. A recent postcard reports that it will be about May 20th before he returns home from his eighth (no less!) round-the-world cruise. It's a cinch he will have plenty to tell. Maybe runner-up for the traveling title should be Norman Sherman, who drives a 200-mile round trip from Santa Barbara for a large majority of our bi-monthly meetings. (Makes you wonder a bit about some who seem reluctant to travel a dozen or so miles to be with us.) At any rate, Norm last month made an overnight trek up to Oakland to sit in with our northern fellows at one of their "BATS" meetings. We look forward to hearing a good report from Norm on that session at our own next gathering.

ON A RECENT VISIT to the stamp and coin department in J. W. Robinson's, Beverly Hills, your editor looked over a nice little batch of transportation tokens for sale. Mostly "garden variety", priced at two-bits each, but for some of our newer collectors these could be quite interesting. Ask for Herb Goldman, manager, to show you what he has there.

ANOTHER OUTPOST for token collectors is soon to be established by Gordon and Claire Smith. Since they came here from Massachusetts nearly four years ago, the Smiths has lived in an attractive mobile home park in nearby Santa Monica. Within just a few weeks, though, they'll be moving down to Oceanside, in San Diego County, where they have just purchased a much larger abode. Mobile homes are never huge, but when you hear that Claire and Gordon have gone from 280 sq. ft. to 1040 sq. ft., you can appreciate how far more comfortable they are bound to be. A side benefit is that the new home will give all of us a nice stopping off place on any trips to San Diego. Surely, though, we hope to continue seeing the Smiths in regular attendance at all our meetings here in town.

TOKEN TOPICS

ISSUE #12
July, 1968

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND,
Editor

MIDSUMMER MEETING: For our next club session, on Sunday afternoon, July 14th, we will gather once again at the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles. Apparently we were all on good behavior when we last met there in March, so Elaine has offered once again to share her famed hospitality with us. Just in case you were not on hand before, we'll remind you that her place is close to Figueroa Street and Century Blvd., and can be reached easily over the Harbor Freeway. Maybe you're not a Frenchman and don't ordinarily celebrate Bastille Day, but this year it can be your good excuse for attending this meeting-- along with plenty of dupes for swapping, of course. As always, the session will run from 2:00 until 5:00 or so.

IF YOU HAVEN'T already done so, better mark your calendar now for two other CATTC meetings scheduled in the fall. The next one after this will be on Saturday, September 7, in the form of a "picnic in the park". Most likely spot will be Griffith Park's Travel Town, with full details in the next issue of "Token Topics". (And by the way, we do mean on Saturday, for the benefit of numerous members who find our regular Sunday scheduling to be a problem.) The final session for 1968 will be on Sunday, November 10, at the home of club president Robert Ritterband, and will include the customary annual election of new officers.

Still to come this summer, of course, is the 20th Anniversary convention of the American Vecturist Assn., at the Hotel Leamington, Oakland, on August 16, 17, and 18. It looks like they will have another winner this year, and plenty of Southern California collectors are certain to be there. It's to your advantage to send in hotel reservations and conclave registrations early, because you sure won't want to miss the fun and benefits of having this national convention so close at hand.

CLUB THANKS go now to another member, Ed McClung, who also recently prepaid his dues for three years. Maybe Joseph Allis really started something big with the plan. Why, we could collect all kinds of cash, put it out at good interest, and maybe build a new clubhouse or something! But we do appreciate this thoughtfulness, so-- anyone else with three bucks to spare?

GETTING BACK to the subject of our hostess for July, have you heard yet about Elaine's newest field of collecting? Or for that matter, did you ever hear of anyone collecting this item? And what is the exciting new field? To be exact, clothes pins! Elaine reports that it all came to her in a dream (a nightmare, maybe?), and that she is really following up on this with good results.

Until she reads about it right here, our Madame Secretary will not know we are telling you all of this. Anyhow, how would it be if everyone attending our next meeting were to bring along some different kinds of clothes pins for her astounding new hobby. And we really do mean different kinds! Elaine claims that within just a few weeks she has rounded up at least two dozen totally different varieties. (Here we always thought that if you had met one clothes pin, you had met them all!) Now don't forget to bring some along... unless you're an old-time collector too!

MOST TOKEN COLLECTORS in our club (and in the AVA) started with transportation items: street cars, buses, and so on. By now, most of us have branched out into many other kinds of tokens also. Recently your editor decided to try listing the major classifications in his collection according to their usage, as an aid to sorting and filing. The results turned out rather well, we think. In the hope that other collectors, both within the CATTC and outside it, might like to copy this new method, we offer here the "Ritterband Classification".

Group A: Valuable in Exchange for PASSAGE-

1. Vehicular (Street Cars, Buses, Taxis, Ferries, "Depotels", etc.)
2. Right-of-Way (Toll Roads, Bridges, Tunnels, etc.)
3. Amusement Rides (Without actual destination)

Group B: Valuable in Exchange for SPACE RENTAL-

1. Parking Meters
2. Private Garages
3. Entry or Exit Gates

Group C: Valuable in Exchange for GOODS or SERVICES-

1. Trade Checks ("Good for.....")
2. School or Employee Meals, etc.
3. To operate Merchandise Vending Machines
4. To operate Amusement Machines
5. To operate Telephones, etc.
6. Gaming Tokens (As in Nevada)

Group D: NOT Valuable in Exchange-

1. Location Souvenirs (To publicize places of interest, etc.)
2. Event Souvenirs (Current or commemorative; generally dated)
3. Personal Souvenirs (Similar to a "calling card")
4. Advertising Pieces
5. Political Pieces
6. Misc. Pocket Pieces ("Good Luck", Religious, Humorous, etc.)

OUR SMITHS: Maybe you will recall that one in every seven or so members of this club is a SMITH. Two of the nine "varieties" listed in our membership "Catalogue" have now moved to the friendly little city of Oceanside, in San Diego County. We haven't yet stopped in to visit Gordon and Claire, but we would guess it is nearly 100 miles each way, down the Pacific Coast Highway. For four years, Norman Sherman has been driving practically that same number of miles to our meetings, since his Santa Barbara is about as far north of Los Angeles as Oceanside is to the south. With such steady attenders as these folks, surely the CATTC can now proclaim itself the "biggest" regional club in active members.

An even more distant SMITH is our good member, "Jack R.", of Indiana, whom we are certain will some day drive in for a meeting. Seriously though, this club is fortunate in the loyalty of its members. Our total list is rather small, compared to some of the other token clubs across the land. But our turnouts for meetings generally runs at least one-third or more of all CATTC members. "Who could ask for anything more?".

EVER WONDER how the word "token" actually originated? Well, try this on your player piano...

The
Only
Kids
Enjoying
Numismatics

TOKEN TOPICS

September, 1968
Issue #13

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND,
Editor

THE PICNIC: Surely there is no regular reader of "Token Topics" who doesn't know by now that our 70th CATTTC gathering will be (a) on a Saturday, and (b) in the form of a picnic. The "Saturday" thing is strictly an experiment, for the benefit of those members who can not fit our usual Sunday meetings into their schedules. By a full attendance this time, our officers will know how to plan best for future programming.

It's a full four years since we last staged a picnic, so this too will be a real attraction. The date is Saturday, September 7th, and once again we'll meet at Travel Town in Griffith Park, Los Angeles. We have been assigned a large, grassy plot at the east end of this popular facility. If you watch closely you will see a small, direct driveway to our tables, just west of the Live Steam Club layout. Also the main parking lot is spacious, free, and reasonably convenient too.

Enclosed with this bulletin mailing is a descriptive folder of Travel Town, showing a good map of the entire Park. Those who haven't enjoyed this fun spot recently will be amazed at the extensive growth and improvements. Just the new Travel Museum itself is worth a special visit by any transportation fan. Very close at hand, if your kids get tired of the locomotives, is the new Los Angeles Zoo... and the Planetarium... and on and on! Our folks will start gathering about noon; so bring your picnic baskets, your family and friends, and of course your duplicate tokens for a deluxe under-sunny-skies swap session. Y'all come, hear?

THE CONVENTION: Because the AVA "Fare Box" editor takes a well-deserved vacation each year at this time, our own bulletin will bring you a few advance highlights of the recent national convention in Oakland. Your editor had to miss the event himself, because of major surgery undergone at the time by both his wife and eldest son. (Both are doing nicely now!) We have had reports from several club members who went up north, and it sounds as though the convention was a good success.

Members of the CATTTC there included: J. Allis, R. Atwood, R. Carlisle, R. Carter, E. Cutler, D. Feisel, R. Freiberg, G. Gould, R. Kubach, M. Marvin, E. Miller, J. Nicolosi, N. Sherman, K. Smith and E. Willahan, plus a number of family guests also. We understand that our fifteen members represented more than 25% of the total registration! About a half-dozen displays and a good token auction were enjoyed by all the collectors.

Two highlights of the gathering have been favorably reported by our members. We are told that the traditional Saturday banquet featured an excellent speaker on the pending Bay Area Rapid Transit, and that he responded nobly to many questions on the plans and development of BART. On Sunday there was a very enjoyable chartered street car ride over most of the surface lines remaining in San Francisco, with plenty of photo stops, a chance to study the car barns, and so on. A total of 57 riders, including a number of outside "juice fans" were said to have been on the trip.

As always, a special tour token was cast for the convention, which was good for use on the car ride. The editor's copy has now come in from the New Issues Service, and we can say without contradiction that this is the most handsome special in AVA annals. The token looks to be oxidized bronze, and is essentially square in shape, with a side-to-side measurement of 34mm. The face reads, "AVA Convention, Tour Token, Oakland, Calif., August 16-18, 20 Yrs." Four quadrants of the face portray a horse car, ferry boat, steam locomotive, and motor bus, these being the traditional modes of public transportation in the Bay Area. On the reverse, which is canted 90° to the face, it says, "Chartered San Francisco Streetcar, Good For One \$2.50 Fare." In the center is the official seal of the American Vecturist Association. These tokens must have cost plenty to produce, but are certain to sell widely and should provide a nice profit for the promoters. By all means, add one of these beauts to your collection!

A couple of final facts for your interest are that Ralph Hinde was re-elected AVA vice president, in the only contested office. Also, Arthur Jordan Jr., the veep runner-up, was winner of the annual Silver Token Award for the best original article printed in "The Fare Box". His thoroughly scientific four-page discourse on Vulcanite tokens in the March '68 issue was surely worthy of this honor. Now, if only WE could have been in Oakland too...!

ATWOOD RECUPERATING: Roland Atwood, AVA #1, happened to reach the convention hotel in Oakland a few hours early on Friday. Soon afterwards he totally disappeared, and it wasn't until mid-afternoon on Saturday that his friends learned he had been hospitalized overnight by a near tragedy.

While strolling the streets in full daylight near the old Western Pacific depot, Roland was struck from behind by some thugs, badly beaten about the head, and robbed of a few dollars. He lay unconscious in the street for some time before discovery and the summoning of an ambulance. Fortunately by Sunday morning he was well enough to start back to Santa Monica again, but had to miss almost all of the convention.

Your president called upon Roland at home, and found that luckily he is making a proper recovery now. In spite of numerous welts and bruises, plus extensive dizziness, he continues the same kindly, thoughtful gentleman we have all known him to be these many years.

FOR JULY, the CATTC returned again on Sunday afternoon, the 14th, to the warm hospitality of Elaine Willahan's home, with fifteen members on hand, plus a good sprinkling of wives as guests. Only one of our many Smiths was present that day, with all the others probably busy on typical July vacationing. A member especially welcomed to this gathering was Amos House, and his better half, who drove in from LaVerne, Calif., to be with us for the first time in many months. We hope they will now repeat frequently!

A NEW MEMBER, SORT OF! When we first started publishing "Token Topics" about two years ago, the club president instructed Secretary Willahan to mail a copy of every issue to each officer of the AVA who did not already belong to CATTC. We also mail to leaders of the regional token clubs, all for the purpose of sharing our token pleasures as widely as possible.

At the recent Oakland convention, R. K. "Toby" Frisbee, AVA's veteran treasurer from Denver, thanked our club for the enjoyment he has from the bulletins, but insisted he should be paying his share of our postage fund. Elaine accepted the usual dollar from Toby, so he therefore becomes an official member of CATTC, from now thru the end of next year. Our greetings now to another fine fellow!

NEW "SHELL GAME": One of the many happy aspects of our token hobby is the frequency that collectors have for branching out into new subjects. Just about a week ago we were introduced to a new prize game by Shell Oil Co., featuring what they call "Mr. President Coins", with a holder for same. This game consists of a set of 32 portrait medals of the U.S. presidents, thru F. D. Roosevelt, and various cash prizes are given to all who manage to complete any one of eight different medal combinations in the series.

The "coins" are made by the Franklin Mint in white metal, about 26 mm. in diameter, and each shows the president's name, number and years in office on the portrait side, plus a fixed descriptive wording on the reverse. They are given out in sealed pouches free to licensed drivers at most Shell Oil stations, and of course these is the usual handful that seem nearly impossible to find. Still, your reporter located seventeen different issues in about an hour's drive around town last Sunday. Even lacking any prizes, just think of the collecting fun he had!

IN NOVEMBER we will again meet at the home of President Ritterband in the Wilshire district, Los Angeles. This last meeting of the year always means an election of officers; everyone is urged to start thinking NOW about this important matter. Last year our entire slate of officers was re-elected, but by now several of them are fully ready to bow out. More info on all of this in our next bulletin.

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

November, 1968

Issue #14

CALIFORNIA ASSN. of TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTORS

ROBERT RITTERBAND
Editor

COMES NOW the time to start winding up another club year. On Sunday afternoon, November 10th, CATTC members will get together from 2:00 until 5:00 for their last scheduled meeting of '68. This session will be at the Robert Ritterbands', 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles.

As always, there will be plenty of tokens changing hands, plus some good news tid-bits on vectures, and some good fellowship. There will also be another item of real importance. Since our officers' terms expire on December 31st, we'll be holding an election of a new panel for the next year. (And we do mean NEW!)

A year ago all four of the officers were unanimously elected to a second term. This time only two have expressed a willingness to stay (in the same office), if asked. They are Robert Carter, vice president, and Elaine Willahan, secretary. Robert Ritterband, president, and Edward Cutler, treasurer, do not wish to serve further now. Both have had a number of terms in varying offices, and both feel that good club health calls for a rotation of duties among numerous members.

Our club size and structure has meant that advance nominations or mail balloting are not practical. Members who attend the year's final meet make the selections. Please give some thought to new candidates, even including YOU yourself, and then be on hand to help make the decisions.

If you haven't visited this home before, be advised that Colgate Ave. is in the Wilshire district, not far from the Farmer's Market. The street lies parallel to Wilshire Boulevard, beginning at Fairfax Avenue and running west to La Cienega Boulevard. If you need more exact driving instructions, just phone 938-4504. But most of all, be sure to be there with the rest of our folks!

EXPERIMENTALLY our September gathering was on a Saturday, intending to benefit a number of members who have found the customary Sunday afternoons unsuitable. The event was in the form of a picnic at Travel Town in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, on September 7th. The locale was superb, the weather was perfect, and the attendance was quite satisfactory. All told, we had 25 members and guests on hand, including a number of kids. Just this once a collector could trade some tokens and samples of home-made cake at the same time. And the large tub of luscious, fresh tomatoes brought to town by Ella and Norm Sherman was a real feature!

About the only thing missing during this fourth renewal of our outdoor fun was any turnout of members who had asked for a switch from Sundays. It must be that their Saturdays are mighty busy too! However, those who did get there thoroughly enjoyed a leisurely, close-up inspection of the many types of rolling stock in Travel Town's famed collection, ... and all promised faithfully to be back again next year.

FUTURE PLANNERS should take note that our first meeting of the New Year will be on Sunday afternoon, January 12th, at the friendly home of Elaine Willahan in Los Angeles. More details later on that gathering, but in the meantime, enjoy a happy and healthy Holiday Season.

OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE of "Token Topics" gave well-deserved praise to this year's convention souvenir token. We reported that although obviously expensive to produce, its good looks would surely make it a best seller, and thus "provide a nice profit for the promoters". In a recent letter, AVA President Duane Feisel says that he considers the last part of our comments misleading. He has now supplied us with some facts, which certainly should be shared with everyone.

Generally the cost of previous souvenir tokens has been underwritten by each convention host group, with any profits going their way. We assumed that the same would be true this year. Instead, Mr. Feisel says that he personally underwrote this token expense, and that after the costs are recovered, all profits will go direct to the AVA treasury. You must admit that this is a very generous act on his part. Only he can lose and only the Association can gain! We regret any discomfort we may have given to Duane Feisel and his hard-working committee. If only these details had been made known to the convention or through The Fare Box, our apparent error would never have come about.

WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, our two travelingest members are Roland Atwood and Elaine Willahan. They both seem to spend far more time in going and coming than in staying put! Roland left again last month for one of his up-the-coast-and-across-the-country jaunts, and this time he induced Elaine to take a part in the same outing. They were scheduled to meet in San Francisco, and be on a shipboard cruise to Vancouver, B.C. From there, Roland is moving diagonally across the U.S.A. to Florida, and he gets home in mid-November via Texas. On the other hand, Elaine will fly back from Canada, to be home in time for her customary duties on the local Election Board... and of course in time for our coming meeting.

NEXT AUGUST: We have read in the Texas Vecturist's bulletin (though not yet in The Fare Box) that our AVA convention for 1969 will be held in Philadelphia. Once again it will coincide with the American Numismatic conclave in the same locale and about the same time. Certainly a good handful of CATTC members will hope to attend.

The recent AVA meet in Oakland was brought back to California after only a one year interval, for this same tie-in with the ANA schedule. It was thought that many additional collectors from across the land would attend our event, enroute to San Diego. Yet a study of the Oakland minutes shows that all together only nine registrants came from any place further east than the Rockies. We keep wondering if our convention choice will ever be based on a canvass of the general membership, rather than the hopeful forecast of a select few.

YOUR EDITOR is a big dope! A couple of weeks ago we made one of our brief business trips to Las Vegas, Nevada. While there we took an hour off from work for a look at the "Circus Circus", their newest casino which had opened just the day before. It's an unusual, huge and exciting combination of gambling casino, carnival games and circus Big Top. But it wasn't until after returning home that we learned all of their carnival game prizes are handled through redeemable Merchandise Tokens. We know none of the details. But by the time we get back there again some other collector will probably have claimed "discovery" rights on these newest additions to our hobby, which we had overlooked.